

AGENDA



Thursday, October 22, 2009

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 30**

Subject: Approve ordinance adding a new section 12-1-35 (Vulnerable Road Users) to the City Code relating to restrictions on operating a motor vehicle near vulnerable road users, and creating an offense.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: David Carter, APD Chief of Staff / 974-5030

This action is to approve an ordinance adding a new section 12-1-35 (Vulnerable Road Users) to the City Code requiring a three-foot safe passing distance between vehicles and vulnerable road users.

A vulnerable road user includes any classification of a pedestrian or worker with legitimate business in or near the road. A vulnerable road user may also be classified as a person on horseback or person operating a bicycle, motorcycle, moped, motor-driven cycle, or motor-assisted scooter. Operators of motor vehicles passing a vulnerable road user operating on a highway are required to pass the vulnerable user at a safe distance.

A safe distance is considered to be three feet if the operator's vehicle is a passenger car/light truck or six feet if the operator's vehicle is a truck (other than light truck) or commercial motor vehicle.

This ordinance protects the rights of vulnerable road users from being intimidated, threatened, or harassed by maneuvers of a motor vehicle. Operators of motor vehicles will have to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any vulnerable road users on a roadway or intersection.

The Street Smarts Task Force developed policy recommendations to City Council that were eventually absorbed into the 2009 Bicycle Master Plan. This particular recommendation fell outside the purview of the 2009 Bicycle Master Plan.

This ordinance promotes the interest of overall transportation safety.